



county of san diego



*fiber rolls for erosion prevention*



*mulch protects exposed soil*

# prevent & control erosion

Erosion can occur under many circumstances, but it typically affects homeowners after events like rain. Sediment from eroded soils that enter storm drain systems can cause problems for our waterways by filling in streams and blocking sunlight that organisms need to live. Most residents are concerned about keeping our waterways clean.

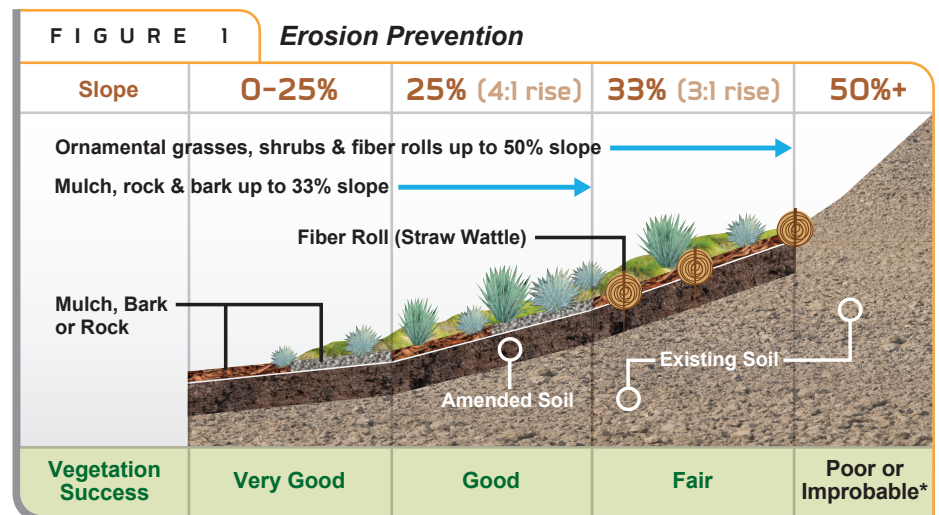
**In fact, surveys conducted across San Diego County show that more than 50% of residents believe that pollution of our beaches, lakes, and creeks directly affects them and their families.**

**! Water that is released to the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County IS NOT TREATED before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. All sources of pollution, including sediment from erosion, are prohibited from leaving your property and entering streets or storm drains. Only rainwater is allowed in the streets and storm drains.**

The County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program supports residents in their efforts to prevent pollution by offering these important tips for preventing damage to your home from erosion and preventing sediment from entering the storm drain system.

## prevent

The best way to keep sediment from damaging homes and washing into storm drains is to prevent it from happening by using what are called Best Management Practices (BMPs). Certain areas of your home may be more prone to erosion than others. Use the Erosion Prevention illustration to help determine which areas to look out for and the BMPs to install to prevent erosion.



## control

The best laid plans don't always pan out. If you find yourself in a situation where erosion and flooding are currently an issue, use the tips on the next page to temporarily prevent further damage and control erosion while the more permanent solutions, such as plantings, are being established.



## Sandbags

**Purpose:** Temporarily creates a barrier that keeps eroded soil and water away from property and roads.

**Where to use:** Stacked against a building, to direct eroded soil and water away from buildings, to direct flow between buildings, to keep water from contacting bare soil.

**How to use:** Sandbags should be aligned in rows without any gaps between bags (see figure 2). Stamp the bag into place, stagger layers, and complete each layer before starting the next layer. Stack sandbags 2 to 3 layers high or use pyramid stacking if more height is needed. To view examples of properly stacked sandbags, visit <https://youtu.be/Tbr9QlrutZ4>.

**Note:** Sandbags should not be placed on slopes or around foundations. Pay attention to where flows are diverted as it is unlawful to divert flows that negatively impact your neighbors. To find out where to get free sandbags in your area, visit [www.readysandiego.org/flooding/](http://www.readysandiego.org/flooding/).

FIGURE 2 Building A Sandbag Barrier

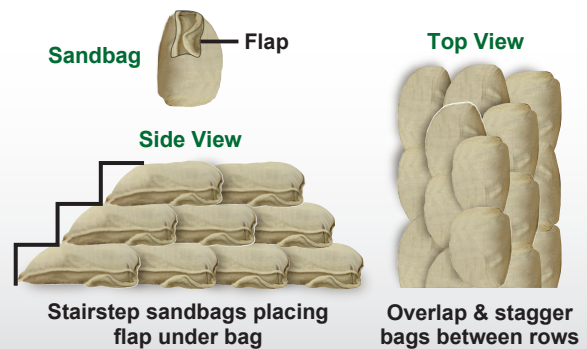
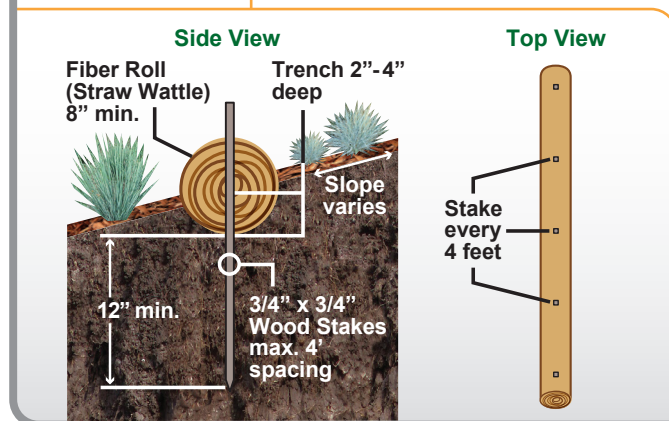


FIGURE 3 Using Fiber Rolls (Straw Wattles)



## Fiber Rolls (Straw Wattles)

**Purpose:** Reduces how quickly water moves over an area and helps trap sediment.

**Where to use:** Across slope faces, along the top & bottom of slopes, along perimeter of fire-affected lots.

**How to use:** Fiber rolls should be trenched and held in place with wooden stakes. See figure 3.

**Note:** Fiber rolls should be repaired or replaced if split or torn. Sediment reaching 3/4 of roll height should be removed. Fiber rolls can be found at most home improvement stores.

## Mulch

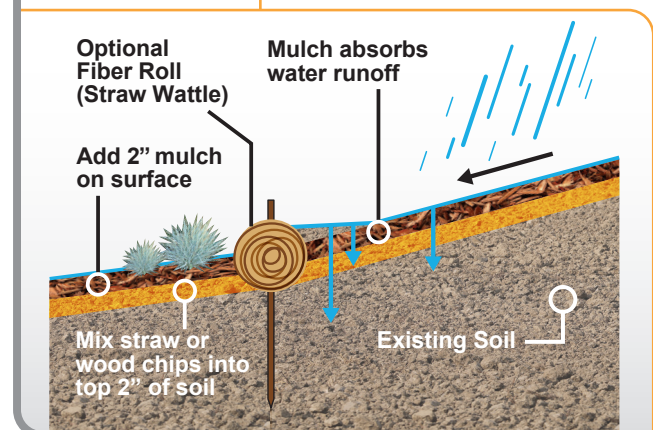
**Purpose:** Temporarily protects exposed soil from erosion by rain and wind.

**Where to use:** On bare soil areas, depending on slope. See figure 4 for details.

**How to use:** Straw or wood chips should be worked into the top few inches of soil. A cover layer of wood chips about 2 inches deep can also be used as slope and soil conditions warrant.

**Note:** Mulch should be used with other methods such as fiber rolls for maximum benefits. It is important that the mulch is installed properly to prevent it from leaving your property, which wastes the mulch and can contaminate our waterways further.

FIGURE 4 How To Mulch



For information on gravel bags and other BMPs, see the Erosion and Sediment BMPs flyer.

**For More Information**

**1-888-846-0800**

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> > > thank you for doing your part to protect our waterways.